GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2499
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2007
IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS
Chaure Shri Bapu Hari;Gawali Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to some provisions of the World Trade Organisation, the countries which import foodgrains have to open their markets to multi-national companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any study about the adverse effect on wheat growers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d): No, Sir. There are no specific provisions under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreements for opening markets to multi-national companies for import of foodgrains. One of India`s key priorities in the agriculture negotiations has been for enabling developing countries to protect and promote the interests of their low income and resource poor farmers. Developing country Members would also have the flexibility to self designate an appropriate number of tariff lines as Special Products (SPs) guided by indicators based on the criteria of food security, livelihood security and rural development.